

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application. Additions to the claims are in **bold** and underline. Deletions to the claims contain a strikethrough unless it is fewer than five letters, the content to be deleted is contained in double brackets [[]].

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A PDF-exclusive, deflection and channeling method for the **direct** process handling of each PDF data stream which is en route to a printer, and which PDF data stream may include both PDF image-only, and other than PDF image-only, files, said method comprising

querying each such PDF data stream to detect therein the presence of a PDF image-only file,

in association with, and as a part of, said querying, on detecting such a presence, and with respect to **all detected** PDF image-only data ~~present in the detected files~~, deflecting and channeling ~~image-only data~~ **such files** to a full-time dedicated and exclusive, PDF image-only pipeline processing path en route to the printer, and

for PDF files in the queried data stream that are other than a PDF image-only file, performing with respect to PDF data in such other files separate, conventional PDF handling en route to the printer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said deflecting and channeling includes specifically directing the detected, image-only PDF data **files** alone to a path which includes processing steps involving image-only decoding, and downstream from image-only decoding, rendering for printing.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus utilizing deflection and channeling for handling exclusively, and directly, each PDF data stream which is en route to a printer where that PDF data stream may include both PDF image-only, and other than PDF image-only, files, said apparatus comprising

querying structure for querying each such PDF data stream to detect, so as to deal through querying-based deflection and channeling with, exclusively therein the presence of any PDF image-only ~~block of PDF data~~ file, and

operatively connected to said querying structure, and downstream therefrom, (a) PDF-exclusive processing structure which is full-time dedicated to PDF image-only data file processing for processing image-only, deflected and channeled ~~blocks of PDF data files~~, and (b) ancillary processing structure for conventional PDF handling of non-image-only, ~~ancillary PDF data which are other than image-only blocks of PDF data files~~, wherein said querying structure, when querying a PDF data stream that is en route to a printer, deflects and channels solely, and all, detected the PDF image-only ~~PDF data~~ files from said processing structure which is provided for conventional PDF handling of non-image-only ~~data files~~ to said processing structure which is dedicated solely to the handling of PDF image-only data files ~~processing when an image-only block of PDF data is detected~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said PDF-exclusive processing structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data file processing includes image decoding structure, and downstream from said image decoding structure, render-for-printing structure.